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Message Text

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64
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 FEA-02 SCI-06

TAR-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 INT-08 DRC-01 /082 W
---------- 009224
R 211400Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3968
INFO AMEMBESSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0461

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS :ELAB,ENRG,SF
SUBJ :SOUTH AFRICAN COAL EXPORTS TO U.S.
REF :AF/S MEMCON JULY 16

1. CAPE TIMES REPORTS FROM NEW YORK ON SHIPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN COAL TO MOBILE, ALABAMA DECLARE ALABAMA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS CALLED ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BAN COAL IMPORTS UNDER SECTION OF TARIFF ACT PROHIBITING IMPORT OF GOODS PRODUCED BY 'FORCED LABOR' AND QUOTE CUSTOMS BUREAU OFFICIAL,RAYMOND TURNER IN WASHINGTON AS DOUBTING ALABAMA MOVE WOULD SUCCEED SINCE 'WE HAVE NO LEGAL AUTHORITY TO STOP THE COAL'.

2. HIGH COST OF DOMESTIC LOW SULPHUR CONTENT COAL IS GIVEN AS REASON FOR POWER COMPANY'S IMPORTS, BUT STORIES ALSO EXPLAIN THAT U.S.MINERS ARE DOUBLY BITTER BECAUSE MANY MINED IRON ORE BEFORE LOCAL STEEL PLANTS TURNED TO SOUTH AMERICAN IRON ORE IMPORTS ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO, AND QUOTE UMWA PRESIDENT ARNOLD MILLER AS DECLARING 'WE WANT THAT COAL STOPPED PURE AND SIMPLE'.

3. ARGUS REPORT OF AUGUST 20 STATES MINEWORKERS' UNION JOINED ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN APPLICATION TO U.S.
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CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER ON GROUNDS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS

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THREATEN THE JOBS OF MINERS IN ALABAMA AND GEORGIA, AND ADDS

THE UNION OBJECTS TO IMPORTS FROM ANY COUNTRY AS A THREAT
TO LOCAL MINERS RIGHTS. ARGUS ACCOUNT ALSO REPORTS THAT ACCORDING
TO SPOKESMAN FOR ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CUSTOMS
COMMISSIONER IS REQUIRED TO IMPOUND THE FIRST
AND ANY OTHER SHIPMENTS OF COAL PENDING A RULING ON THE APPLICATION,
AND THAT CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON
THE MATTER.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON,INCLUDING LIKELIHOOD, IF ANY, THAT

INJUNCTION AGAINST COAL IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA MAY BE FILED
AND SUSTAINED.

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